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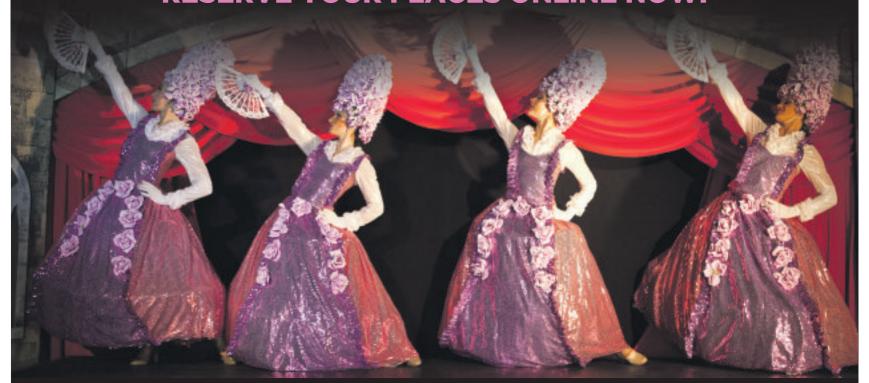
Dates and Prices

			Business Price	Consumer Price					Business Price	Consumer Price	
Fri	28th	Nov	£54.50	£65.40	Mixed Group		12th				SOLD OUT
	29th			£65.40		Sat	13th	Dec	£57.50	£69.00	Limited Places
Wed	3rd				SOLD OUT	Sun	14th	Dec	£39.50	£47.40	Mixed Group*
	4th						15th				
	5th				SOLD OUT	Tue	16th	Dec	£39.50	£47.40	Mixed Group
Sat	6th	Dec	£54.50	£65.40	Mixed Group	Wed					
	7th		£39.50			Thu	18th	Dec	£47.50	£57.00	Mixed Group
Wed	10th				SOLD OUT		19th				SOLD OUT
Thu	11th	Dec	£45.00	£54.00	Mixed Group	Sat	20th	Dec	£57.50	£69.00	Mixed Group

If you are a private individual you will pay the prices listed under the 'Consumer Price' (including VAT) column.

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FODEN AND MYLER FIT FOR SAINTS' OPENER



RUNNING OUT OF PHONE **CREDITIS NOT EMERGENCY**

POLICE CRITICISE CALLERS WHO MAKE NON-URGENT 999 CALLS

A 999 call from a woman who contacted police because she had run out of phone credit has been highlighted as one of the inappropriate uses of Northamptonshire Police's emergency telephone

Throughout Monday of this week, the county's police force tweeted details of the wide variety of calls the control room, based in Wootton Hall, received from members of the public.

One of the incident sincluded a call from a woman who had rung police because she had no credit on her phone.

Other inappropriate calls included someone who dialled 999 to say she had been receiving morse code down her phone and another person who rang to report the theft of a dog that happened a month ago.

Chief Inspector Fay Tennet, who manages the control room, said people needed to make sure they only called the 999 number if it is an emergency.

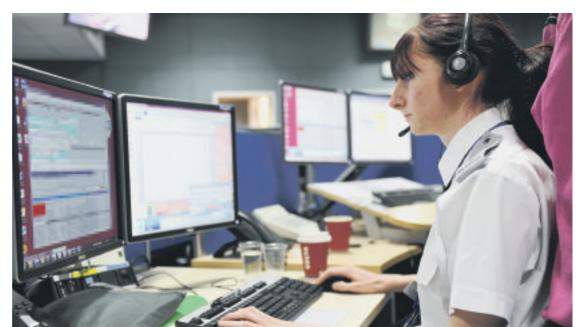
She said: "People should use the 101 number to report crimes that are historic. The 999 call is for what is happening now.

"People need to think about their call and decide if they need an officer to attend in a police car using blues and

"We want to make sure we give every incident the appropriate response."

Ms Tennet said there were 150 staff in the control room. working different shifts over a 24 hour period, and they took an average of 1,000 phone calls

The busiest part of the day was from 2pm to midnight and the busiest days of the week were Friday or Saturday.



Police are urging the public to only call 999 in the event of a genuine emergency ... other calls can be made to 101



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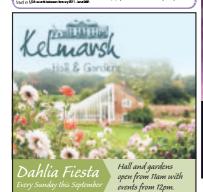
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Traders urge town roads safety review

Business leaders believe it is only a matter of time before a pedestrian is seriously hurt, after two crashes on the roads outside North Gate bus station in the space of a week.

Sheep Street and the Drapery were cordoned off for more than an hour on Saturday, August 23 when two buses, a van and a taxi were involved in a collision. Although no-body was seriously injured in the incident, the driver of the Bounds taxi had to be cut out of the light blue Toyota Prius, which was badly damaged.

The incident came little more than a week after several passengers were treated by paramedics when a car and a number 16 Stagecoach bus collided in Sheep Street. The driver of the car was taken to hospital.

Raymond Everall, who runs a hairdressers in the area around the bus station, called for a 5 mph speed limit to be introduced on the surrounding roads before the station was built and this week he reiterated that plea.

"Bus drivers are often beeping at people because they are in the way," he said.
"Aren't we building up to

a pedestrian incident round

Mr Everall, who has run firms in the town for 40 years, said he chaired a scrutiny review into ways of increasing footfall on the Market Square last year, prior to the bus station opening. The document, which involved consultations with a number of businesses in the area, proposed that a 5 mph limit be introduced, however the measure was not adopted.

The county council said the minimum limit it could impose on a highway was 20 mph. But Mr Everall believes curbing speed in any way would improve safety.

He also pressed the borough council to install permanent barriers in Sheep Street as an extra measure in keeping the public safe.

He said: "The trouble is people are still using the former zebra crossing in the same way, even though there is a pelican crossing there now. They are not waiting for the lights. People are often in the road when they shouldn't be. But the 5 mph speed limit would calm everything down and give drivers more time to react.



Two buses were recently involved in collisions in the area around the new North Gate station

Retired Abington resident Norman Sharp, who campaigned vociferously against the design of the bus station site before it opened, said accidents were "always going to happen" with the capacity of Bradshaw Street and Sheep Street at stretching point.

He claims to have counted 80 buses leaving the station in the space of an hour and believes the drivers are operating "under duress" as a result of often having to queue on entering and exiting the site. The Bradshaw Street exit is further strained by those exiting the Radisson-owned Park Inn Hotel and delivery lorries to nearby shops.

"That was two accidents in a week," Mr Sharp said. "It's lucky no one has been seriously hurt. The safety problem you have is that there are

'There are too many buses operating in too small an area'

too many buses operating in too small an area.'

Craig Fitzhugh, managing director of Excel Insurance, opposite the pedestrian entrance to the bus station in Bradshaw Street, said more needs to be done to ensure pedestrians use the pelican crossings to cross the road as he hears a bus horn sound '20 times a day'. "Someone's going to get hurt," he said: "I've been here since 2000 and it's absolute chaos compared to when

New cafe to offer high-tech help for waiting passengers

Bus passengers travelling in the Drapery will soon be able to avoid the rain as well as keeping their eyes on a live departure board, thanks to a clever idea at a recentlyopened cafe.

The No. 48 Cafe in the Drapery opened at the start of August thanks to a £24,000 grant from the borough council's Busness Incentive Scheme

In addition to selling lunches, snacks and hot drinks, the new café is set to have a screen installed that will be linked directly to the North Gate Bus Station, so customers will be able to see the bus arrival and departure information.

Mark Walters, proprietor of Leopold's Belgian Chocolates and Coffee House, is the owner of the new No.48 Cafe. He said the screens were set to

come in this week. "The idea is that the cafe is a place

where people can sit and have a coffee and a chat in the dry and they can keep their eye on the digital boards to see when they've got to

While the cafe will help to prevent some customers from standing out in the cold in the Drapery during the winter, Abington resident, Norman Sharp, is keen to see the borough council deliver on its promise to install heating in the North Gate bus depot building in time for autumn. "It needs to be done soon," he said. "Winter will be here within weeks."

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Ice bucket craze

An ice bucket challenge craze sweeping the world on behalf of a Northampton-based charity raised more than £2.2m in little over a week.

The phenomenon, which has seen people nominate others to be drenched in freezing cold water for the Motor Neurone Disease Association (MN-DA), based in Lower Mounts, and its affiliated charity in the United States, the ALS Association, has so far raised thousands of pounds for the life-limiting conditions.

A host of celebrities, from Benedict Cumberbatch to Northampton's own former Doctor Who, Matt Smith, have taken up the challenge after being nominated, posting clips of their feats on videosharing internet site, Youtube.

Director of engagement at the MNDA, Chris Wade, said the response to the Ice Bucket Challenge had outdone all ex-

He said: "I'm over the moon how it has gone - even with all the money in the world, we couldn't have engineered this kind of publicity.



Northamptonshire County Cricket were among thousands to take the ice bucket challenge in a week that has seen more than £1m raised for the Northampton-based Motor Neurone Disease Association.

"It's a brilliant way to raise awareness about the cause and it is completely led by people who care about Motor Neurone Disease."

The MND Association was

founded in 1979 by a group of volunteers with experience of living with, or caring for, someone with Motor Neurone Disease.

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Northampton 611860 referencing the 'Ice Bucket Chal-

Mr Wade dismissed suggestions the charity had any hard feelings towards Macmillan Cancer Care, which has also adopted the ice bucket challenge in the past week. He said: "It's good that any cause is raising money. We are delighted we are raising some

So far, players at Northampton Saints and Northampton County Cricket Club have taken on the challenge.

Motor Neurone Disease is a fatal, rapidly progressive disease that affects the brain and

It attacks the nerves that control movement to the extent that people can be left 'locked in' a body, unable to move or talk or, eventually, breathe.

Mr Wade said the challenge had been critical in raising awareness of Motor Neurone Disease, which currently affects 11 people in Northampton and just over 40 in the

Laying down gauntlet

DA via its Just Giving page are currently standing at £3.8m with much more expected in the coming days.

Members of the public can donate to the cause via the page, or by texting ICED55, followed by an amount (such as £5) to 70070 or, by calling

The leader of Northampton Borough Council is among the latest people to be nominated to take on the Ice Bucket Challenge. Director for engagement at the MNDA, Chris Wade, nominated Councillor David Mackintosh to take the cold plunge, adding: "I would say to him it's a great cause

to support in any case, but it's even

better to support a national charity based here in your town." Councillor Mackintosh, currently on holiday, is yet to reveal whether he will be accepting. A spokesperson for the council said: "The leader is currently on leave and dealing with urgent matters. He will consider all requests on his

return next week."

email editor@northantsnews.co.uk

Send us your news...

that obviously helps. Many tradespeople have struggled since last year and I honestly feel that during the good times a during the good times a focus on customer care as much as they should have done. We make sure we turn up when we say we will, do the job the customer requires and leave their house as clean as a whistle. I often get comments back from customers on how they really didn't expect that sort of service which, in a way, is very sad for the service industry as a whole. Cloudy2Clear service

It's been a crazy few months for Cloudy2Clear Windows. The company which specialises in repairing windows which are steamed up, broken or damaged by replacing the panes – not the frames has grown rapidly as homeowners take advantage of their services.

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that it's all about service

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services.

Cloudy2Clear service the Northampton, Kettering, Wellingborough & Corby areas and Trevor is finding that his

approach is a major factor in his success. 'The truth is that it's not just the personal satisfaction that l get from doing a good job but also it makes good business sense. I get a huge amount of business from friends and family of people I've done work for, be happy to help!

which just goes to show how much a little bit of effort is appreciated.'

So, if your windows are steamed up, broken or damaged give Trevor a



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All Saints' choirs to get new master

A lauded pianist is to be the new director of music at All Saints Church in Northampton town centre.

Peter Foggitt, a composer, piano player and conductor, will take up the role in September, replacing Lee Dunleavy, who has left to spend time with his

Mr Foggitt, who will be responsible for the acclaimed Choir of Girls and the Choir of Boys and Men, said: "I am delighted and honoured to be carrying on the tradition and exceptional quality of music-making that Lee Dunleavy and his equally distinguished predecessors have created at All Saints."

On the radar of classical reviewers for many years, International Piano magazine said one "stunning" recital at the age of 17 showed "firebreathing virtuosity", while as recently as last year, his performance at the Edinburgh



Fringe won strong praise.

Mr Foggitt studied at Fettes College, in Edinburgh, and at Chetham's School of Music in Manchester before going to Cambridge where he was senior choral scholar of King's College.

After Cambridge, he studied piano and singing at Trinity College of Music and earned the degree of Master of Music at the Guildhall School of Music

cia and Drama

He has recorded extensively as a choral singer, as a vocal soloist and as an organist, and is a highly-regarded composer with dozens of compositions to his credit.

His honours include the MBF Accompanist's Prize at the 2013 Kathleen Ferrier Awards and the Pianists' Prize at the Emmy Destinn Awards.

He joins Northampton's civic church from his role as director of music at All Saints in Putney, London.

Mr Foggitt said: "In the short time that I spent with the choirs at interview, I was hugely impressed with the standard of singing, of discipline and of commitment to the liturgy.

"I look forward to developing these elements further. I look forward also to working with the Friends of All Saints' Music in promoting and enhancing the choirs' public profile."





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Fhursday, September 4, 2014 www.northamptonchron.co.uk

IN TOUCH

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Work is taking place to improve the grave of Caroline and Archibold Chisholm in Billing Road Cemetery.

New headstone for **Caroline Chisholm**

A group has launched a fundraising campaign to refurbish the grave of historical Northampton heroine, Caroline Chisholm.

The Friends of Caroline Chisholm have removed the tombstone of Caroline and Archibald Chisholm from their grave in Billing Road Cemetery, in Northampton, after it fell into disrepair.

It is now undergoing a for further repairs.

several books on Caroline Chisholm, who is recognised by the Church of England as a saint, said: "Friends of Caroline Chisholm in Australia, where Caroline is very well known, have raised a significantamount towards the costs and I would be most grateful if anyone who admires her as much as we do, would make a donation.

Caroline was born in Northampton and played a immigrants during the first

Street, Northampton, in 1930, the pair moved to India.

Archibald was stationed with the East India Company Army there, and Caroline soon opened a school for girls living in the barracks.

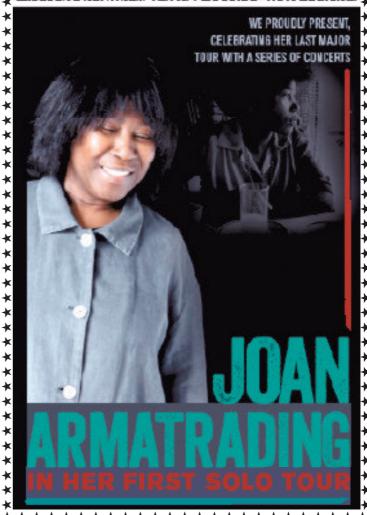
They then moved to Australia where Caroline became horrified by the poverty and conditions suffered by women who had emigrated to the British colony via Sydney.

 $She\,opened\,several\,homes$



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X-ray images speed up with new systems

Patients at Northampton General Hospital (NGH) will have the chance to benefit from faster turnaround times on X-ray tests as a new computer system is introduced to deliver scans to doctors in other parts of the hospital.

The new system, which will be rolled out during the next 12 months, means doctors will be able to see diagnostic images of patients almost as soon as they are produced.

With the system being introduced across seven East Midlands hospitals, it will also mean that doctors can call in specialist opinions on the images from colleagues at other sites.

Seven NHS trusts in the consortium - Northampton General Hospital, Kettering General Hospital, Nottingham University Hospitals, Chesterfield Royal Hospital, Leicester Royal Infirmary, Sherwood Forest Hospitals



A new X-ray system at Northampton General Hospital will allow faster and more efficient diagnosis

and United Lincolnshire Hospitals - will be sharing the cost of the new system between them.

The trusts are set to sign a deal with GE Healthcare to supply a Cloud-based system that allows doctors to view and discuss images 'live', without needing significant new software installed on their networks.

Dr Richard Jones, con-

sultant radiologist at NGH, who worked as part of the consortium's clinical team, said: "Radiology systems have developed hugely in recent

"The ability to review radiology images and reports is now a crucial part of many clinical pathways, which increasingly involve multiple hospital locations, 24/7.

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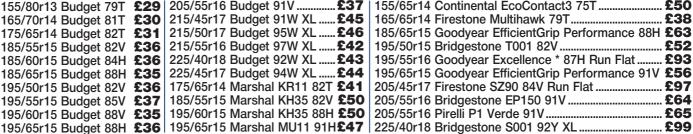
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NORTHAMPTON MERCURY www.northamptonchron.co.uk Thursday, September 4, 2014

Teacher first to do double swim to France from Channel Islands

A school teacher from Northamptonshire has become the first person to swim to France from two Channel Islands.

David Coleman, aged 57, swam across the Alderney Race, which is infamous for its strong tidal currents, to reach the Continent from Alderney in six hours and 23 minutes.

Nowthrilled at his achievement, the Maidwell Hall School history teacher said he had earlier been distraught when, only 100 metres from the French coast and almost depleted, an undertow took him back out to sea, making his task even tougher.

He said: "After six hours it was an awful feeling to suddenly see the support kayak going sideways.

"I asked what was going on and he shouted back that the tide had changed and we were being pushed back out to sea."

The extra inconvenience



David Coleman swimming alongside his support kayak.

added about 20 weary minutes to his mammoth swim, but the New Zealander said he was thrilled with his achievement, particularly as some Alderney islanders thought he would not make it.

The Loddington resident,

who practices in the River Nene, near Oundle, said: "They were shaking my hand in the street the next day and

telling me how amazing it was.

"Beforehand many of them, knowing how dangerous the Race is, said it was impossible.

"I don't like to hear negatives though. I had to ignore them or else I never would have made it."

Mr Coleman's latest cross-Channel swim, his fourth and, he says, his last, follows his swim from Jersey in 2013.

This time he had to swim as hard as he could for the full distance to keep on course and said he passed the time by counting his strokes – 58 to 60 a minute – as he knew every 3,600th stroke was his hourly break, although he was only permitted to tread water.

He said: "Swimming the Channel is a mental thing more than a physical trial.

"You can't really practice for the conditions anywhere, you just have to mentally force yourself to go on."

Smoking numbers decrease in county

THE number of smokers in Northamptonshire has decreased by two per cent in 12 months, latest statistics have revealed.

But a report by the county's Director of Public Health, Dr Akeem Ali, showed 21 per cent of adults still indulged in the habit. As a result about 1,000 die in the county each year from tobaccorelated illnesses.

Meanhile, the public health report showed seven in 10 people in Northamptonshire rated their happiness levels as medium to high.

Dr Ali said: "Individuals and communities with better wellbeing will ultimately have better health, lower need for services and longer lives. Increasing wellbeing and making sure residents feel in charge of their lives are now our main goals."





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'Darkness' inspires novelist Alan's tale

A world famous graphic novelist says the "darkness" in his new film has been inspired by Northampton.

Alan Moore, who lives in the town and has written comic books such as *V for Vendetta* and *Watchmen*, is currently filming his latest work of fiction called *The Show*, which charts the lives of characters who inhabit the fictional 'underworld' of a Working Men's Club in Nighthampton, an alternate version of Northampton.

In a recent TV interview, Mr Moore said he believed Northampton was "absolutely average" but also a "very unusual" town.

He said: "I got the darkness from Northampton. In many ways this is an absolutely average town.

"It is right in the geographical centre of the country and in many ways it is the political and economic centre of the country.



NEW WORK: Alan Moore is filming a story called The Show

"This is more or less where the money runs out.

"In every other sense this is a very unusual town. Most of the violence in British history, all of the big internal wars, have ended in Northamptonshire."

Mr Moore, who has famously rebuffed any offers from Hollywood to write for the big screen, said the series of short films that made up *The Show* were "exactly the way" he wanted his writing to be presented.

Talking to Channel 4 News, he said: "I am dead set against Hollywood adaptations that can only recycle what has already been done or adapt things from media where they were never intended to be films."

The Show is being filmed in different locations in Northampton, including the crypt in Delapre Abbey.

The film features a range of diverse characters including burlesque dancers and clowns. The Working Men's Club is used as a scene where the characters confront their demons and vices.

TO US



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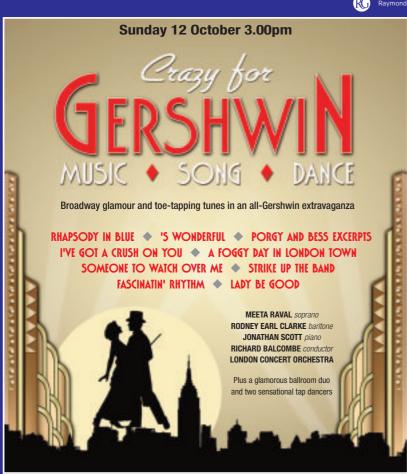


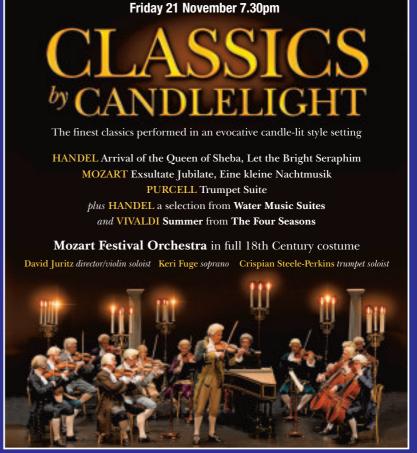
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Call for tests after crashes

Independent speed tests are to take place along a problem road in Northampton after recent car crashes.

Labour Councillor Gareth Eales (*Lab*, *Dallington Spencer*) called for the action following accidents in Spencer Bridge Road and Gladstone Road.

The councillor requested independent speed tests in Spencer Bridge Road to ascertain the scale of the problem, which has been agreed by Northamptonshire Highways.

Councillor Eales said: "The view of residents is that vehicles speeding way in excess of the speed limit is a general problem, this then exacerbates another problem of an uneven road surface which generates noise and vibration which then causes dis-



Councillor Gareth Eales wants traffic speed tests carried out on two busy roads in Spencer and St James.

turbance to residents.

"The first step for me is to get Highways to collate the data from the imminent speed survey and then proceed from there. But this is an issue I am taking seriously and I will in turn ensure the county council does."

Gladstone Road was also closed for a period two weeks ago following a three-car collision

Councillor Eales said: "I have long said that the road layout in Gladstone Road since 2011 is unsafe and there are regular near misses. The removal of the 'rumble strip' surface was only part of the campaign led by myself and the local residents association and one element of a wider set of safety concerns. However, we need to understand exactly what happened and what was the root cause of the accident before passing judgement.

"I have asked Highway's officers to work with the police to compile a report and upon receipt of this, any remedial action needed to ensure public safety will be pursued vigorously by myself as the local councillor."

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STATION	OUTWARD	RETURN		
Northampton*	07.40	21.15		
Rugby	08.25	20.38		
Nuneaton	08.45	20.20		
Carlisle	12.40	14.30		

*Northampton passengers travel to and from Rugby by service train.



Thursday, September 4, 2014 www.northamptonchron.co.uk

Polish want to join community

By Natalia Bolechowska

Reporter editor@northantsnews.co.uk

Polish people in Northampton say they are eager to become part of the town's community, but fear they are often seen as 'unapproachable'.

The town has become home to many people and businesses from Poland who say they have been accepted into the

But they are aware their community remains a mystery to many local people.

Anetta Bolechowska, 44, owner of Polish travel agency, Anetta Travel, in Wellingborough Road, said: "Having spent 10 years in Northampton I can honestly say this is my home now. I believe Poles might seem unapproachable due to the language barrier, however most speak fluent English nowadays.

Poles like to travel. I get a lot of mixed-nationality couples purchasing holidays



Religious songs are performed in the Polish Church in Northampton every Sunday

through me. I think some Northampton people are afraid when it comes to buying their dream holiday through a Polish agency, although I sell holidays on behalf of British tour operators."

Magdalena Antonik, 36, owner of Elle Hair Salon, in Wellingborough Road, said: "All our marketing is in English, but most of our customers are still Polish, which we would like to see changing.

"My team offers services for lower prices to adjust ourselves to customers' income and needs."

Dorota Skrzypek, 40, owner of Chata Cottage Inn restaurant, in St Giles Street, said:

"Eighty per cent of our customers are English. People of Northampton want to discover our tastes and culture. I am happy with what we have achieved.

"I am thinking of develop-ing our business further but the situation, where some widely-known brands are closing their stores in the town centre, makes me consider opening a new business elsewhere".

Many young Polish adults who have finished school have decided to go to university because higher education is seen as vital in their community.

Martyna Gajewska, 19, a BTEC level 3 Foundation Di $ploma \, in \, Art \& De sign \, student$ at the University of Northampton, said: "Northampton has broadened my horizons. The university has helpful tutors that have enabled me to pursuit my dreams and evolve within art.

"I have lived here for five years and I definitely feel a part of Northampton. I spend most of my free time with English friends and I don't feel discriminated against by local people because of my background".

The Polish Church in Northampton has its own band that performs religious songs during every Sunday evening service.
Luiza Wojno, 20, a mem-

ber of the band, said: "We are very privileged to have such a nice church in Northampton where we can regularly meet and consolidate our faith. This is highly important to us, as we come from a strongly Catholic country.

Natalia Chyrc, 20, a BA Tourism and Hospitality student at London Southbank University, who was raised in Northampton, decided to come straight back after her graduation earlier this sum-

She said: "Although I knew Northampton would not give me as many job opportunities as London, I came back because Northampton's a quiet, pleasant town that has its charms.

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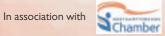
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Thursday, September 4, 2014

Northampton

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BMW gets aggressive makeover

We've all been there; glancing in the mirror on the motorway to see a big German express a few menacing inches from our rear bumper.

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Get away from this pumped-up bravado and you'll

find a car that's much more than a simple style statement and more a driving machine for someone who enjoys proper engineering.

Whether you'd be just as happy in a different BMW that costs usefully less and looks less threatening on the daily commute is a personal matter.

Judged as a mere motor car, the new X4 does a fine job.

The process of turning X3 into X4 brings a £3,600 price hike along with less room in the rear and a smaller – but still spacious – boot.

Prices start at £36,595 and top out at the £48,995 asked for an xDrive35d with M Sport trim. BMW says the X4 has kit worth £2,180 as standard over an equivalent X3, which takes much of the sting out of the cost difference.

You get a pretty much mainstream BMW as you settle into a seat that adjusts easily to give a perfect driving position behind a set of instruments and switches placed to work well rather than look flash at the cost of usability.

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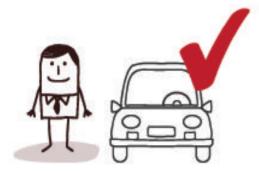
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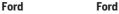
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Further details and application forms are available either from the school website <u>www.moultonschool.co.uk</u> or via <u>email admin.dept@moultonschool.co.uk</u>

Closing date: Monday 15 September, 2014

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GENERAL VACANCIES



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Full time £18,816 - £21,275 per annum

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Part time 13hrs and 24hrs £16,374 - 18,160 per annum pro rata

Closing date for applications: Friday 10th September 2014.

Appointments are subject to Family Action receiving an enhanced disclosure from the Disclosure and Barring Service which we consider acceptable.

For an application pack and further information, please visit www.family-action.org.uk/workingwithus

Family Action offers good working conditions, a comprehensive training programme and a Group Personal Pension Scheme (GPPS).

We are a child and family focused and 'can-do' organisation. We strive for excellence in all we do and operate with mutual respect. We would like to hear from you if you share these values and behaviours, possess the required qualifications, skills and experience, are passionate about the delivery of excellence that makes a real difference to the lives of service users, and want to be part of a forward looking and ambitious organisation with a commitment to continuous improvement. We welcome applications from all sections of the community.

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Uppingham School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children. This post is exempt from the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974 and as such the successful candidate will need to be DBS checked before being confirmed in position.

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For an application pack visit www.uppingham.co.uk Closing date: Wednesday 17th September 2014. Uppingham School, Uppingham, Rutland LE15 9QE

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SPORT

England duo fit for opener

Foden and Myler in good shape ahead of Gloucester clash

RUGBY

Jim Mallinder has confirmed England duo Ben Foden and Stephen Myler will be fit to face Gloucester on Friday.

Myler did not play during pre-season, with a calf injury ruling him out of the games against Rotherham Titans, Leinster, Moseley and Newport-Gwent Dragons.

Foden got some game time against Leinster, but, having been named in the team to face the Dragons last week, the full-back was forced to pull out at the last minute.

But Mallinder says that was merely precautionary and insists the pair will be available for Friday's Aviva Premiership opener at Franklin's Gardens.

"They've trained this week so they're fully fit," said the director of rugby. "You can't risk players sometimes.

"Ben Foden turned his ankle just before the warm-up last week so he's been fine, we've just been looking after him, and Stephen Myler's trained all week."

Saints will be without Sam Dickinson against Gloucester as the No.8 out for three months after having surgery on a neck injury.

But back row forward Jon Fisher, who signed a permanent deal at the Gardens this week following a successful trial period, could be in line to make his Northampton debut

The former London Irish player was involved in pre-season games against Rotherham Titans, Leinster and Newport-Gwent Dragons.

Fisher, who can play on the flank or at No.8, will help make up for the loss of Sam Dickinson, who is out for three months after having neck surgery.

And Saints boss Jim Mallinder says his new recruit deserved a permanent deal after displaying plenty of desire in training and friendly matches.

"Jon is a talented player who will give us depth across the back row," said Mallinder. "He has worked hard throughout our pre-season training, putting in plenty of effort in both conditioning and rugby sessions.

"More importantly he has shown that he has the determination to play and succeed here at Franklin's Gardens, and we were delighted to offer him this contract."

Fisher, like Dickinson, has played for the England Saxons in the past and was once hailed as a future London Irish captain.



<mark>HERO RETURNS</mark> Saints great Bruce Reihana was back at Franklin's Gardens on Sunday for Paul Diggin's test

Reihana's tribute to Diggin

BRUCE REIHANA has paid tribute to Paul Diggin, claiming he always knew the Northampton-born winger would be a star at Saints.

After amassing 148 appearances and scoring 62 tries for Saints, Diggin celebrated his career with a tes-

timonial match at Franklin's Gardens on Sunday.

Former Northampton full-back Reihana was one of the men who turned out for the event, which drew a crowd of more than 3,000.

"I grew up playing here with Diggs when he was com-

ing through the Academy and the first time I saw him I knew he was going to be a star," said Reihana.

"He's a true Saintsman through and through and full credit to him. I was delighted to come back and help him."

Cobblers swoop for defender Cresswell

THE Cobblers have signed Fleetwood Town centreback Ryan Cresswell for an undisclosed fee with hours remaining before the closure of the summer transfer window.

Town have paid money on the second successive deadline day to bring in the 26-year-old, who was bought by Fleetwood from Southend for a fee understood to be in the region of £150,000.

FOOTBALL

In January they paid a fee, believed to be around the £50,000 mark, for forward Emile Sinclair.

Cresswell, like fellow summersigningsMarcRichards, John-Joe O'Toole and ZanderDiamond, has signed a three-year contract at Sixfields and completes what Wilder feels has been some 'fantastic' business.

"I am delighted to sign Ryan," said Wilder. "Alan Knill and I have worked with Ryan before (at Bury). He is a quality defender at this level and a top, top character.

"He is a winner, he has been involved with a lot of teams at the top of this league in his career and he is another player who can helptake this club forward.

"He is an excellent age

and we have done some fantastic business today."

Cresswell was in the PFA League Two team of the year for the 2012/13 campaign with Southend, after which he was bought by Fleetwood.

He made 27 appearances for the Highbury Stadium club, including just a single appearance during the current campaign.

Meanwhile, Cobblers striker Alex Nicholls has joined fellow Sky Bet League Two club Exeter City on loan for a month.

The 26-year-old made his first competitive appearance - after 22 months out with a broken leg-inthe 3-o Capital One Cupsecond-round defeat at Bournemouth last week.

Nicholls played the final 14 minutes at Dean Court and has been training with the squad full time since the start of pre-season. Manager ChrisWilderhasbeenkeento getNichollsoutonloantoimprove his match sharpness, feelinghewouldnotgetalong runofgamesatSixfieldsuntil he has done so.

Nicholls scored eight goals in 18 appearances prior to his injury, suffered in a game against Port Vale in October 2012, and recently signed a contract at Northampton until the January transfer window.



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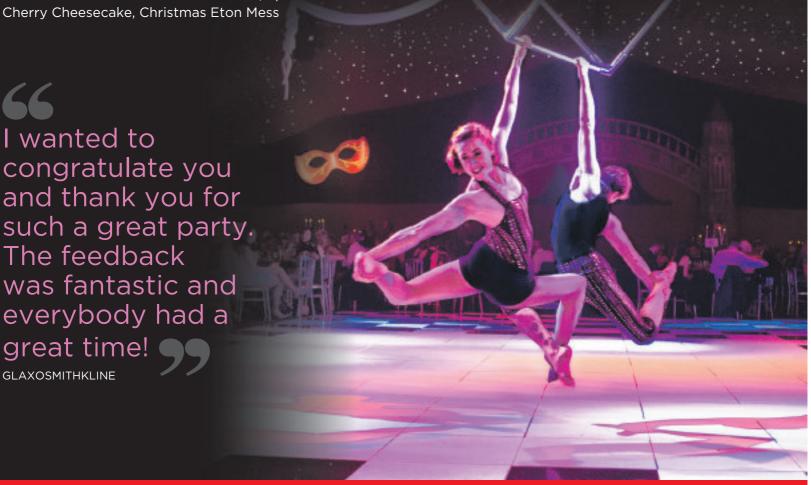
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Dessert

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